

## Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 200383 TOSEC 100055

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT RICHARD DUDMAN COLUMN, FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, WASHINGTON STAR, HEADLINED "SECRETARY FIGHTS CRITICS ON HILL: KISSINGER STILL NO. 1, BUT PROBLEMS MOUNT."
2. "THIS IS A HUNGRY TOWN," SAID A LOVELY YOUNG WOMAN WHO KNOWS WASHINGTON WELL AS SHE RUSHED TO THE DEFENSE OF HER HUSBAND'S BOSS, HENRY A. KISSINGER.
3. THE SCENE WAS A GARDEN PARTY AT THE SWEDISH EMBASSY. AMBASSADOR WILHELM WACHTMEISTER'S HOME-TOWN BAND WAS WARM-ING UP TO PLAY FOR A BIG SLICE OF OFFICIAL WASHINGTON. MUCH OF THE TALK WAS THE SAME AS WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON ALL OVER TOWN: WILL HENRY KISSINGER BE KEPT ON AS SECRETARY OF STATE?
4. THIS PARTICULAR STAFF WIFE WAS PUT OUT OVER A TELEVISION UNCLASSIFIED

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SPECIAL IN WHICH SEVERAL CRITICS SAID KISSINGER HAD OUTLIVED HIS USEFULNESS. SHE CONTENDED THEY EITHER DIDN'T KNOW HIM AT ALL OR HADN'T BEEN AROUND HIM FOR A LONG TIME. THE IMPLIED CHARGE OF ARROGANCE BOTHERED HER PARTICULARLY.

5. "WHEN YOU KNOW HIM, YOU CAN SEE HOW REALLY HUMBLE HE IS," SHE SAID. "WHEN HENRY HAD APPEARED ON BILL MOYERS' INTERVIEW SHOW, HE WAS AT OUR HOUSE AND HAD JUST GOTTEN A CALL FROM MOYERS' OFFICE THAT THE RATING FOR THE SHOW HAD SET A RECORD.

6. "HENRY SEEMED REALLY PUZZLED ABOUT IT. HE WAS SORT OF THINKING OUT LOUD, AND HE SAID, 'HOW CAN IT BE THAT A FAT JEW, AND AN UGLY ONE AT THAT, CAN MAKE SUCH AN IMPACT?'"

7. HER HUSBAND CAME UP JUST THEN AND WAS TOLD THAT THE CONVERSATION WAS ABOUT KISSINGER.

8. "YOU MUST HEAR ABOUT THE TIME WHEN HE CAME OVER TO OUR HOUSE JUST AFTER HE HAD BEEN ON BILL MOYERS' SHOW," HER HUSBAND BEGAN, STARTING TO TELL THE STORY AGAIN IN ALMOST THE SAME WORDS.

9. WHETHER THE ANECDOTE DISPLAYED TRUE HUMILITY ON KISSINGER'S PART IS BESIDE THE POINT. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT KISSINGER IS IN TROUBLE AND THE RELATIVELY FEW WHO LIKE AND RESPECT HIM UNEQUIVOCALLY ARE GATHERING CLOSE TO PROTECT HIM.

10. PARADOXICALLY, AFTER WINNING THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, AFTER MAKING THE COVERS OF BOTH TIME AND NEWSWEEK THE SAME WEEK, AND AFTER TOPPING BILLY GRAHAM, PRESIDENT FORD, SEN. EDWARD M. KENNEDY AND GOV. GEORGE C. WALLACE TO LEAD THE GALLUP POLL'S MOST-ADMIRED LIST FOR A SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, KISSINGER FACES MOUNTING CRITICISM AND RESISTANCE.

11. HIS TROUBLE IS NOT WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. HIS APPROVAL RATING BY GALLUP STOOD AT 56 PERCENT IN MAY, COMPARED WITH PRESIDENT FORD'S 52 PERCENT IN THE GALLUP AND 46 PERCENT IN THE HARRIS POLL.  
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12. ON HIS STRENUOUS SERIES OF APPEARANCES AROUND THE COUNTRY, HE DRAWS TURN-AWAY CROWDS AND CHARMS MOST OF HIS LISTENERS IN PERFORMANCES THAT HAVE REMINDED SOME OBSERVERS LESS OF A VISITING SECRETARY OF STATE THAN OF A TOURING MOTION PICTURE STAR OR VICTORIOUS GENERAL OR OF A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE STUMPING FOR THE NOMINATION.

13. NOR IS HIS TROUBLE WITH THE PRESS. KISSINGER ALWAYS HAS HAD A GOOD PRESS, PARTLY BECAUSE HE MAKES NEWS, PARTLY BECAUSE HE KNOWS HOW TO TURN A PHRASE, PARTLY BECAUSE HE IS USUALLY AVAILABLE--FOR INTERVIEWS, BRIEFINGS,

PRESS CONFERENCES AND PRIVATE HELPFUL HINTS OF WHAT'S TO

COME. HE WORKS HARD AT IT.

14. NOR DOES THERE APPEAR TO BE ANY PROBLEM IN HIS DIRECT RELATIONS WITH PRESIDENT FORD. THEY OBVIOUSLY NEED EACH OTHER. THEY DISPLAY RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER. WITH AN OCCASIONAL EXCEPTION THEY WORK AS A WELL COORDINATED TEAM.

15. HIS MOST OBVIOUS TROUBLE IS WITH CONGRESS, ESPECIALLY WITH THE DEMOCRATS, BUT WITH CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICANS AS WELL.

16. SOME OF THEIR CRITICISM IS OPEN. SEN. ADLAI E. STEVENSON D-ILL., HAS ACCUSED KISSINGER OF EMPLOYING A "PERSONALIZED, VEST-POCKET DIPLOMACY" THAT PURSUES "MEANS WITHOUT ENDS." SEN. LLOYD BENTSEN D-TEX., WHO HAS INTRODUCED A BILL TO PREVENT ANY FUTURE SECRETARY OF STATE

FROM ALSO HOLDING THE KEY WHITE HOUSE JOB OF ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, HAS ASSAILED KISSINGER'S "UNDEMOCRATIC EMPHASIS ON SECRET DIPLOMACY, PERSONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND ONE-MAN AUTHORITARIANISM."

17. SEN. JESSE HELMS (R-N.C.), WHO VOTED AGAINST KISSINGER'S CONFIRMATION AND HAS BEEN ASSAILING HIM EVER SINCE, HIT HIM AGAIN RECENTLY FOR HIS "RATHER CAVALIER PUTDOWN" OF ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN.

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18. KISSINGER HAS HIS SUPPORTERS IN CONGRESS, OF COURSE. BUT THE VOTES HAVE INDICATED THAT THE CRITICS ARE IN THE MAJORITY ON SUCH ISSUES AS MILITARY AID TO TURKEY, COVERT MOVES TO WEAKEN OR UNSEAT THE LEFTIST ALLENDE GOVERNMENT IN CHILE, AND KISSINGER'S LAST-DITCH EFFORTS TO SHORE UP THE ANTI-COMMUNIST REGIMES IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, AS WELL AS THE ENTIRE U.S. POLICY IN INDOCHINA THROUGH THE NIXON AND FORD ADMINISTRATIONS.

19. THE FLAP OVER SOLZHENITSYN INVOLVES NOT ONLY CONGRESS BUT, MORE IMPORTANT, A NEW SET OF TROUBLES FOR KISSINGER-- HIS RELATIONS WITH OTHER FORD AIDES, THE ONES WHOSE PRINCIPAL CONCERN JUST NOW IS TO HELP FORD WIN THE 1976 ELECTION.

20. ON KISSINGER'S ADVICE, FORD DECLINED TO RECEIVE THE EXILED SOVIET NOVELIST. EVEN AFTER THE PRESIDENT REVERSED HIMSELF AND HIS PRESS SECRETARY, RONALD NESSEN, HAD BEGUN SAYING FORD WOULD WELCOME A CALL FROM SOLZHENITSYN,

KISSINGER SAID A MEETING OF THE TWO WOULD HAVE BEEN "DISADVANTAGEOUS" TO U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.

21. MANY OBSERVERS SEE THE SOLZHENITSYN MATTER AS A SERIOUS AND GROWING PROBLEM FOR THE PRESIDENT, ONE THAT HELPS FOCUS CONSERVATIVE SENTIMENT AGAINST HIM.

22. ONE OF FORD'S CLOSE POLITICAL ADVISERS BRUSHED ASIDE THE SOLZHENITSYN AFFAIR AS "A WASHINGTON ISSUE," ONE THAT IS BARELY MENTIONED IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. BUT HE SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER KISSINGER WOULD BE AN ASSET OR A LIABILITY TO THE PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL CAMPAIGN AS IT DEVELOPED.

23. KISSINGER SUCCESSFULLY WOODED TWO EARLY CRITICS IN THE SENATE, STUART SYMINGTON, D-MO., AND J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT D-ARK. BOTH STOOD BY HIM IN SOME SHARP PINCHES--NOTABLY WHEN HE WAS ACCUSED OF HAVING ORDERED WIRETAPS ON 13 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND FOUR NEWSMEN AND HAVING DECEIVED THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN MINIMIZING HIS PART IN THE EPISODE.

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24. NOW THAT SYMINGTON HAS ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT AND FULBRIGHT HAS BEEN DEFEATED, KISSINGER IS TURNING HIS ATTENTION TO YOUNGER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON THEIR WAY UP. HE HAS BEEN CULTIVATING PARTICULARLY REP. PHILLIP BURTON OF CALIFORNIA, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS AND A LIKELY CONTENDER FOR SPEAKER, AND REP. WAYNE L. HAYS, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE THAT HANDLES AUTHORIZATIONS FOR STATE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

25. KISSINGER HAS CALLED BURTON OVER TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR PRIVATE TALKS AND CAUSED SOME RAISED EYEBROWS BY TURNING UP AT A FUND-RAISING PARTY FOR HAYS AT THE SHOREHAM HOTEL LAST YEAR.

26. A COLLEAGUE OF HAYS SAYS, "KISSINGER STROKED HAYS' EGO BEYOND BELIEF. WAYNE LOVES IT. HE BECAME ALMOST A TOTAL PIGEON FOR KISSINGER."

27. TO GET AROUND THE MANY CONGRESSMEN WHO OPPOSE HIM, KISSINGER HAS GONE TO THEIR OWN CONSTITUENCIES. SOME CONGRESSMEN WHO HAVE BEEN FIGHTING HIM BITTERLY GIVE HIM GRUDGING PRAISE FOR BEATING THEM AT THEIR OWN GAME.

28. DESPITE HIS HEADWAY WITH PRESS, CONGRESS AND THE PEOPLE, SPECULATION PERSISTS THAT KISSINGER MAY RESIGN

WELL AHEAD OF THE 1976 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, POSSIBLY AFTER HOPED-FOR SPECTACULAR NEW DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN THE CONTROL OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

29. BUT ONE OF KISSINGER'S CLOSEST FRIENDS CONFIDES THAT THE SECRETARY'S DESIRE IS TO STAY ON, VINDICATE HIMSELF AGAINST HIS CRITICS, AND CONTINUE TO HOLD BOTH HIS JOBS WELL INTO A SECOND FORD TERM.

30. KISSINGER HIMSELF HAS SAID SEVERAL TIMES RECENTLY THAT WHATEVER MAY BE HIS OWN PERSONAL PREFERENCE, THE NATIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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INTEREST DEMANDS THAT HE REMAIN IN OFFICE.

31. THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE HIS OWN WISHES CLEAR. REFERRING TO BOTH KISSINGER JOBS, FORD TOLD INTERVIEWERS RECENTLY, "AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, HE CAN STAY AS LONG AS HE WANTS TO."

32. A SUGGESTION OF RESERVATION CAME FROM ROBERT T. HARTMANN, MR. FORD'S LONG-TIME SPEECHWRITER AND POLITICAL STRATEGIST, WHO HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT KISSINGER:

33. "HE DOESN'T WALK ON WATER, BUT ON BALANCE I THINK HE'S AN ASSET, AND I HAVE A VERY HIGH REGARD FOR HIM."

34. SUNDAY: WHAT KISSINGER DID TO ROGERS. (END TEXT)  
ROBINSON

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